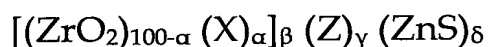


## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A phase change optical recording medium having a wide recording power margin and excellent durability to repetitive recording is disclosed. The medium includes a first protective layer, a recording layer, an interface layer, a second protective layer, and a reflective layer, the layers disposed on a transparent substrate, wherein the interface layer includes a mixture of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ . Preferably, the medium further includes a second interface layer including the mixture of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  between the first protective layer and the recording layer. In another preferable aspect, the mixture of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  is represented by the following formula:



wherein "X" represents an oxide selected from  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{Sc}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ , and  $\text{CeO}_2$ ; "Z" represents an oxide selected from  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ , and  $\text{ZnO}$ ; " $\alpha$ " is 2-15 mol%; " $\beta$ " is 40-100 mol%; " $\gamma$ " is 0-60 mol%; " $\delta$ " is 0-60 mol %; and  $\beta + \gamma + \delta = 100$  mol%.